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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 44th meeting of the RSPG on 21 November 2017 (RSPG#44). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

With regard to the institutional discussions on the Commission's proposal for a European Electronic Communications Code (the Code), the co-legislators held the first inter-institutional negotiations at the end of 2017 (trialogues) under the Estonian Presidency. Two more such meetings are planned for February 2018 under the Bulgarian Presidency. The objective of these trilogues is to reach a political agreement by April 2018 in line with the European Council conclusions.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#44, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee on 6-7 December 2017. The following issues were discussed:

- **Mandate on RLAN in the 6 GHz band**

Taking into account views expressed by stakeholders the RSC discussed the draft Mandate to CEPT. There were diverging views among Member States with regard to the upper limit of the band to be studied (i.e. 6425 MHz or 7125 MHz). During the discussion all arguments were exchanged and it became clear that there was no majority for a wider study scope up to 7125 MHz. In the end the RSC gave a positive opinion on draft Mandate to CEPT to study feasibility and identify harmonised technical conditions for Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks in the 5925-6425 MHz band for the provision of wireless broadband services (RSCOM17-53rev1_final, publicly available on CIRCA).

- **1.5GHz extension bands**

The Commission presented a revision of the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision (EU) 2015/750 on the harmonisation of the 1452-1492 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in the Union (RSCOM17-41rev2). A number of Member States insisted on the need for flexibility in using portions of the extension bands to ensure co-existence with other existing use including military. Such flexibility is given in the Commission proposal. The harmonised technical conditions are based on the final CEPT report 65 (delivered in November 2017). Noting the overall support from Member States a stable text was developed during the meeting. The Commission services plan to request the opinion of the RSC at the next RSC#63 meeting in March 2018.

- **IoT in 900MHz and 1800MHz**

The Commission presented a draft Decision (RSCOM17-50) amending the harmonised technical conditions for the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequency bands in the Union in support of state-of-the-art cellular Internet of Things (IoT) applications. The draft is based on the deliverables of the draft CEPT Report 66. RSC Members widely supported the draft and a stable text could be agreed. The Commission services plan to request the Opinion of the RSC on the draft Decision at the next RSC#63 meeting in March 2018, pursuant to the availability of the final CEPT Report 66.

- **870-876 and 915-921MHz bands:**

The Commission presented a Draft Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonisation of the bands 870-876 and 915-921 MHz for use by short range devices based on the discussions in the previous meetings (RSCOM17-60). The corresponding explanatory document explained the purpose of such a decision as well as its benefits for the respective stakeholder communities (military, railways, Internet of Things (IoT) including RFID users). The Commission emphasized that the draft was a balanced approach to reconcile all the

different interests expressed by Member States and stakeholders, which was recognized by the meeting.

The Member States and the Commission formulated a limited set of technical questions to the ECC and following the expected response in March, all open elements should have been clarified so that the Committee would be able work towards the finalization of the draft.

- **Radio Interface Specification Template:**

The Commission presented a revised version of the template for notification of Radio Interface Specifications (RIS template) under the Radio Equipment Directive (RED) and its corresponding guide. This template should be used by Member States and EFTA countries when preparing and publishing Radio Interface Specifications. The meeting endorsed the template, which will be published in due time.

- **Drones:**

Following the request of several Member States, the Commission presented a discussion paper on drones (RSCOM17-57). EASA gave a comprehensive update on the ongoing revision of the EASA Basic Regulation and DG GROW clarified the relations to the Radio Equipment Directive. A list of questions has been put to the Member States who themselves are still contemplating what actions might be necessary. This topic will be discussed again at the RSC in July 2018.

- **Advanced antenna systems at 2 GHz**

The Committee discussed upon request of one administration the issue of using multiple (more than 4) antennas in the context of Commission Decision 2012/688/EU on the harmonised use of the paired 2 GHz band. It was agreed follow up to the topic at the next RSC meeting based on a reasoned input of the CEPT.

Next meeting: RSC#63 is scheduled for 14 and 15 March 2018 in Brussels.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Study on using millimetre waves (mm-waves) bands for the deployment of the 5G ecosystem in the Union ([SMART 2017/0015](#))

The European Commission has appointed IDATE Consulting, Plum Consulting and Scott Marcus to perform the above study. The contract has been signed for a period of 12 months. A stakeholder consultation workshop will take place at Q1 2018. More information will follow in due course.
